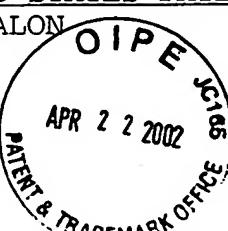


2152#8

~~Patent~~

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

APR 25 2002

Sir:

Technology Center 2100

In accordance with the Applicants' duty to disclose information which may be material to the examination of this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner consider on the merits the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) before issuing the first Office Action on the merits. We are enclosing herewith a copy of each document listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified). **RECE**

on the
RECEIVED

MAY 01 2002

The documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) include those cited in the European Search Report of the corresponding European Patent Application No. EP 01410001.0. A copy of the Search Report (2 pages) is enclosed herewith.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

The Applicants believe that this IDS is being submitted before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits and before the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance. Therefore, no official fees should be due; and this IDS should be considered on the merits. If this IDS is being submitted after the issuance

04/24/2002 NM0HMM1 00000036 120415 10044287

01 FC:126

180.00 CH

Information Disclosure Statement
USSN 10/044,287
April 16, 2002
Page 2



RECEIVED

APR 25 2002

Technology Center 2100

of the first Office Action on the merits and before the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-0415 \$180.00 (or any other required amount), which is the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c); and this IDS should be fully considered on the merits, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d). If this IDS is being submitted after the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, then the Commissioner is not authorized to charge \$180.00 to Deposit Account No. 12-0415.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.)

The person making this statement is the practitioner who signs below on the basis of information supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)) and on the basis of information in the practitioner's file.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the "Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231", on April 16, 2002 by Suzanne Johnston.

RECEIVED

MAY 01 2002

Respectfully submitted,

Richard P. Berg
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 28,145

LADAS & PARRY
5670 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 2100
Los Angeles, CA 90036
(323) 934-2300

Enclosures: Form PTO-1449 (modified) (1 page)
Copy of Search Report of EP 01410001.0 (2 pages)
Copy of documents listed on Form PTO-1449 (modified)

Information Disclosure Statement
USSN 10/044,287
April 16, 2002
Page 3



RECEIVED
APR 25 2002
Technology Center 2100

Form PTO-1449 (Modified)	ATTY DOCKET NO. B-4457 619451-4	U.S. SERIAL NO. 10/044,287
LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS STATEMENT	APPLICANT(S) Denis CHALON	
	FILING DATE January 9, 2002	GROUP 2152

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE or 102(e) DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,634,005	5/97	Matsuo	395	200.02	
	6,073,142	6/00	Geiger et al.	707	500	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO
	0 800 144 A2	10/97	EP			
	05-091129	4/93	JP			Yes

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	Abstract of JP 05-091129, Patent Abstracts of Japan, 1 page, December 12, 2000.	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

RECEIVED
MAY 01 2002
Technology Center 2100